



## **League Competition Rules**

### **1. MANAGEMENT**

The Management of the Leagues shall be in the hands of the Committee of Association.

### **2. QUALIFICATIONS**

The Leagues shall be open to all clubs affiliated to the Association.

### **3. ENTRY**

Clubs wishing to enter a team in the Leagues for the ensuing season shall submit their entry or entries to the League Secretary on the form provided by the Committee by the 7th of September or date as communicated by the League Secretary.

### **4. FORMATION**

The league shall consist of three sections: the open fours league, the ladies fours league and the hybrid fours league. All new teams shall be entered into the lowest division.

There shall in addition be a "Veteran's Open" fours league that will be administered in a similar way to the other fours leagues, with the restriction that all participants must be at least 50 years of age as of 1<sup>st</sup> September. The intent for this league is to be more open, with no restrictions on participating player's gender and perhaps a little more friendlier competition than the other leagues.

The Committee shall divide the teams entered into Divisions. Except for the top division, divisions may be divided into two sections of equal standing and so far as possible equal numbers.

### **5. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

- The composition of each division shall take account of promotion and relegation resulting from the preceding season's competition. If, due to withdrawal of a team or teams, vacancies are created in any division, the committee shall decide a revised composition of divisions affected.
- Where a division consists of two or more sections the teams comprising each section shall be determined by ballot/draw but each sections of any such division shall contain so far as possible the same number of teams relegated from the division immediately above, the same number of teams promoted from the division immediately below and the same number of teams from the same club (where applicable).

### **6. ALTERNATIVE LEAGUE STRUCTURES**

The Committee may at their discretion submit one or more alternative League structures in full detail to the Association at the Annual General Meeting in which case the league structure to be adopted for the ensuing seasons shall be that receiving a majority of votes.

### **7. MATCHES**

Each team shall play all the other teams in the same division or section as the case may be, twice. Once on a court or courts nominated by such teams own club when they shall be at Home and once on a court or courts nominated by the opposing club when they shall be Away. The home club shall



bear all the expenses of playing a match except for the travelling expenses of the away team. All League matches must be played using feather shuttles.

### **8. COMPLETION OF MATCHES**

All matches must be completed by 7<sup>th</sup> May. All matches (home and away) between clubs with more than one team in any division must complete the fixtures between these teams before the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

All matches should be started within 15 minutes of the start time. If the match is not completed in the available time due to the late arrival of a player then the game should be awarded to the opposition. Both captains should do their best to ensure all games are played within the allocated court time.

### **9. FIXTURES**

Fixtures for all league matches for the ensuing season shall be made at the Annual Fixture Meeting held immediately after the Annual General Meeting. It is Mandatory for every Club to be represented at the Annual General Meeting in order to complete the fixtures. NO EXCEPTIONS will be allowed. Penalty for non attendance will be a deduction of 5 points per team entered by the offending club.

### **10. FIXTURE LISTS**

Clubs shall submit fixture lists of all league matches of each of their teams to the League Secretary by the end of September or prior to the first league match of the relevant team preferably by entering the information into the league website, however as a backup these can still be provided by hand, post or Email.

### **11. ALTERATION OF FIXTURES.**

Fixtures shall not be altered except when

- (a) The court or courts on which the match was to have been played shall not be available for any reason beyond the control of the home club.
- (b) Due to severe weather conditions making travelling dangerous.
- (c) With the consent of both clubs.

Only 1 rearrangement of a fixture can be made. Any attempt to re-arrange the same fixture for a second time by the same team will result in that team defaulting the match to their opponents, unless authorization is given by the Match Secretary after discussion with both team captains.

Only 1 defaulted match per team will be allowed, if a second match default occurs for the same team they will be automatically relegated for the following season.

The League Secretary of the Association should be informed of the reason why the original fixture was altered and of the date of the revised fixture.

### **12. CONFIRMATION OF FIXTURES**

The home club shall confirm the details of the fixture with the opposition (away team). Details of the time, place and type of shuttlecock to be used should be given at least four but not more than ten days before the agreed match date.



### 13. EVENTS

- (A) HYBRID FOURS LEAGUE Each match shall consist of 6 events with 4 Mixed doubles, 1 Ladies' doubles and 1 Men's doubles.
- (B) LADIES FOURS LEAGUE Each match shall consist of 6 events with 6 Ladies doubles
- (C) OPEN FOURS LEAGUE Each match shall consist of 6 events with 6 Men's\* doubles (see rule 14.1)
- (D) VETERANS OPEN FOURS LEAGUE Each match shall consist of 6 events with 6 doubles events.

Each event shall consist of the best of 3 games to 21 points (with the option of setting when appropriate in accordance with the laws of badminton)

### 14. TEAMS

#### 14.1 Gender Identity for the Open Category

Note that per Badminton England's current guidelines, within the "Open" league the players within each pairing must be of the same assigned birth gender. In short, if a person who was assigned male at birth now identifies as female, they are only eligible to take part in the Open category. That person will not be eligible to take part in the Ladies category. More information can be found online here:

<https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/about-us/equality-diversity/>

#### 14.2 Male Players

For the avoidance of doubt, references to "Men" in the rules below will refer to a player that is eligible for the Open category as defined in rule 14.1

- (A) HYBRID FOURS LEAGUE Each team in a match shall comprise 2 ladies and 2 men and each team member shall play in two mixed doubles events (Home A v Away A and Home B v Away B then Home A v Away B and Home B v Away A) and one ladies or men's doubles.

Within the spirit of the game, players and pairs should be listed in order of merit.

- (B) LADIES FOURS LEAGUE Each team in a match shall comprise 4 ladies and each team member shall play as follows:

Home Lady 1+2 v Away Lady 1+2  
Home Lady 3+4 v Away Lady 3+4  
Home Lady 1+2 v Away Lady 3+4  
Home Lady 3+4 v Away Lady 1+2  
Home Lady 1+4 v Away Lady 1+4  
Home Lady 2+3 v Away Lady 2+3

Within the spirit of the game, players and pairs should be listed in order of merit.

- (C) OPEN FOURS LEAGUE Each team in a match shall comprise 4 men (as defined in rule 14.1) and each team member shall play as follows:



Home Man 1+2 v Away Man 1+2  
Home Man 3+4 v Away Man 3+4  
Home Man 1+2 v Away Man 3+4  
Home Man 3+4 v Away Man 1+2  
Home Man 1+4 v Away Man 1+4  
Home Man 2+3 v Away Man 2+3

Within the spirit of the game, players and pairs should be listed in order of merit.

(D) VETERANS OPEN FOURS LEAGUE Each team shall comprise of 4 players of any gender, where each player must be aged 50 or over on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Matches shall play as follows:

Home Player 1+2 v Away Player 1+2  
Home Player 3+4 v Away Player 3+4  
Home Player 1+2 v Away Player 3+4  
Home Player 3+4 v Away Player 1+2  
Home Player 1+4 v Away Player 1+4  
Home Player 2+3 v Away Player 2+3

Players may be ordered in any order, to encourage/allow for mixed pairings to play together.

## **15. REGISTRATION**

All clubs and players participating in the league shall be registered with Badminton England.

All players representing their club shall be registered with the league secretary before playing in their first league match either in writing, by email or by entering it onto the website. It is necessary to provide the League secretary with each player's BADMINTON England membership number.

A club playing an unregistered player in a match will forfeit any league points gained in the match by that player and those points will be awarded to the opposing team and the team will be deducted 2 points.

It is expected that clubs will have completed their members' and club registrations with BADMINTON England by their required time limit.

The league website will display a list of the names of each club's registered players. The only details displayed will be the player's name, date of registration, whether the match secretary has received the player's BADMINTON England membership number (actual membership numbers will not be displayed) and, if applicable, which team the player is nominated to. It will also state how many times each player has played in matches to help with rule 17, once the match has been verified.

## **16. NOMINATIONS**

Each club entering more than one team in either the Hybrid, Ladies or Open Leagues shall submit to the League Secretary on the nomination form provided by the Committee a list of four persons selected by the club as members of each team other than the bottom team entered by the club.



## **17. ELIGIBILITY**

No person may play in a match for any team unless such person has been registered with the club represented under Rule 15. No person may play for more than one club in each league in any one season even though such person may be registered with more than one club under Rule 15. Note that it is perfectly acceptable for an individual player to play in multiple competitions, for example both the Hybrid and Ladies leagues, either within the same club or even for different clubs.

Any player who has represented their club in more than 2 league matches in a higher team or teams will not then be eligible for the remainder of that season to play league matches in a lower team for that competition. Infringement of this rule will result in the forfeiture of the rubbers in which the offending player takes part and their award to the opposing team, the offending team will also be deducted 2 points. It is the Club/Players responsibility to adhere to this.

For the purposes of checking a player's eligibility, the league website shall be considered to be the sole source of truth for considering whether or not a player is registered correctly for play within any league events. It is a club's responsibility to ensure that the information entered for their teams on the league website is correct and up to date BEFORE any matches take place.

## **18. EXCHANGE OF TEAM LISTS**

Before the commencement of each match, team captains shall exchange simultaneously team lists giving details of players pairing. Once team lists have been exchanged no pairings may be altered. If it shall transpire after team lists have been exchanged that a player previously understood to be available is in fact unfit or unavailable for any reason, then provided such player has not commenced play in either of his or her events he or she may be substituted by a player of inferior strength. The replacement shall play in the events in which the unfit or unavailable player would have played in accordance with the team lists. Any disputes arising from the use of this rule should be raised with the league committee for investigation.

If any player fails to arrive at a match within 15 minutes of the start time or within such extension of this time limit as may be granted by the opposing team Captain, the missing player shall immediately be substituted or his or her events forfeited to the opposing team.

Once play has commenced in any event then if a player is for any reason unable to finish that event, then the event is forfeited to the opposing team and if such player is unable to commence any remaining events then those events are also forfeited to the opposing team.

## **19. ORDER OF EVENTS**

The order in which the events are played shall be determined by the home team having due regard to any reasonable request by the away team, but unless both team captains agree no player shall be entitled or required to play his or her second event before all players have commenced play in their first event.

## **20. PLAY**

All events shall be played in accordance with the current Laws of Badminton as adopted by Badminton England subject to Rules 13, 14 and 21

## **21. SCORERS**

# **SDBA**

Scorers shall be provided in league matches if one of the participating captains so desires.

## **22. FAULT**

In accordance with Law 13.3.4 of the Laws of badminton, if the shuttle touches the ceiling or side walls it is a fault. If the shuttle strikes any other obstruction on either side of the net within the confines of the court, this shall be a let.

## **23. UNCOMPLETED MATCHES**

When it is not possible to complete a match on the date on which it is commenced and neither team is in default or the team not in default is agreeable arrangements shall be made at the close of play or as soon as possible thereafter to complete the match with the same players on a mutually acceptable date on a court or courts nominated by the home club and the League Secretary shall be informed accordingly by both clubs.

Where the non-completion of a match on the date on which it is commenced is solely or mainly attributed to one of the teams or one of the players, the opposing team may claim any uncompleted event against the defaulting team which may concede such event by agreement.

## **24. DISPUTES**

Any disputes shall be submitted in writing (post or email) to the League Secretary within seven days of the alleged infringement so that the dispute can be investigated by the Committee. The committee's decision is final.

## **25. RESULTS**

The result of each match in full detail shall be inserted on an official match card provided by the Committee, or a copy thereof, signed by the captains or other duly authorised officials of each team and BOTH teams should enter result onto the website within **7 days** of the completion of the match. Whichever team logs on first will enter the players for **BOTH** teams and the result. The team who logs on second will verify the result.

If any team fails to enter or verify the result of a game with the **7 day** limit, **2 points** will be deducted from the offending team.

League secretary will verify any unverified matches within 2 weeks of the match date. Any discrepancies should be sent to the match secretary.

## **26. LEAGUE POINTS**

Each team shall be awarded 1 point for each event won in a match of 6 events

Fours league 6-0, 5-1, 4-2, 3-3.

## **27. LEAGUE POSITIONS**

Final positions in each division or section thereof as the case may be shall be determined by the number of league points won by each team and in the event of two or more teams having the same number of league points then by the difference between the number of events won and lost by each team and in the event of two or more teams having the same number of league points and the same



difference between events won and lost then by the difference between the number of games won and lost. Match cards should be kept until the end of the season in case this happens so the committee can make a decision.

### **28. CHAMPIONS AND WINNERS**

The team finishing top in the Top division (Premier) shall be the League Champions and the teams finishing first in the other divisions or sections thereof as the case may be shall be the relevant Division or Section Winners.

The League Champions and all Division or Section Winners shall hold any relevant shield or cup from the Annual General Meeting following the end of the season until the next following Annual General Meeting and shall be responsible for the safe custody thereof. However, they still remain the property of the Southampton District Badminton Association.

### **29. DECIDING MATCHES**

In the event of teams being equal in a division or section and such teams are either entitled to promotion or relegation then such teams shall play in a deciding match or matches on a neutral court or courts.

### **30. WITHDRAWALS**

In the event of a team being withdrawn from the League prior to completion of that team's league programme, that team shall be deemed not to have entered in the league. The results of all matches played by such team prior to such withdrawal during the current season shall be deemed to be null and void for the purposes of these rules.

### **31. COMMITTEE PROCEDURE**

Disputes, queries and other matters referred to the Committee shall be dealt with in such a manner as the Committee shall consider appropriate.